

**Weekly Status & Information Report:
Week of February 19 - February 22, 2007**

1. **Unofficial Audited Election Results:** After the official hand count of ballots for the January 30, 2007 Ward 5 Special Election, an unofficial digital count was performed by TrueBallot, Inc. as a demonstration of their system. They have prepared a full report which will be posted to the City web page on Friday. *(City Clerk)*
2. **City Offices Closed:** City administrative offices will be closed at 10:45am on Friday, February 23, 2007 at 10:45am for Employee Appreciation Day. The Police Department will remain open. The Recreation Department and Community Center will re-open from 5:00pm for evening programs. *(Executive Assistant)*
3. **Arrests Made in Takoma Park:**
 - On February 18, 2007, after a brief foot pursuit and struggle, Sgt. Bowers and members of Patrol Team 1 made an arrest of a suspect attempting to break into a motor vehicle in the 7600 block of New Hampshire Avenue. Elvin Benavides-Lopez, a Hyattsville resident, was charged with Attempted Theft over \$500, Resisting Arrest and Giving False Statements to a Police Officer. Benavides-Lopez is currently being held at the Montgomery County Detention Center pending a bond review.
 - On February 20, 2007, Pvt. Quante made an arrest of a suspect attempting to break into a residence in the 200 block of Park Avenue. Ronnie Hunt, a District of Columbia resident, was charged with Attempted 1st Degree Burglary and Destruction of Property. Hunt is currently being held at the Montgomery County Detention Center pending a bond review. *(Police)*
4. **Officers in Training:** During the week of February 19th, Pvt. Hubley was detailed to the Communications Section to complete one week of dispatchers' training in accordance with his field training requirements.
5. **New Chief in Town:** On February 20, 2007, Chief Ricucci met with his command staff, including Patrol and Community Policing Sergeants, for an initial briefing. On February 22, Chief Ricucci also attended roll call for Patrol Team 4. Chief Ricucci will also be meeting with the remaining Patrol Teams and civilian staff in the very near future. *(Police)*
6. **Continuing Investigations:** The Criminal Investigations Division is continuing its investigations into the armed robberies which have occurred in the Old Town business district. Investigators are in daily communication (for any developments) with investigators from the surrounding jurisdictions. At the direction of Chief Ricucci, the Patrol Division has increased its patrol coverage of the Old Town area and is conducting high visibility patrol operations. *(Police)*
7. **Traffic Enforcement (Wards 4, 5 and 6):** Officers conducted at least 53 traffic stops this week, 45 of which ended in written citations and one vehicle was impounded. More than half of the stops were made on New Hampshire Avenue, Flower Avenue and University Boulevard, and feeder streets in those areas. *(Police)*
8. **2007 Rental Housing Licenses (City-wide):** Local landlords received information from the Code Enforcement Division and the Finance Office this past week regarding the renewal of their rental housing license. The licensing fee increased from \$84 per unit to

\$86 per unit as of January 1, 2007. The required fee and application renewal form are due in mid-March. Failure to complete the application form and to pay the required fee by the deadline will result in a late fee penalty and a fine of \$1,000 for the operation of an illegal rental facility. Property owners receiving the application material and billing in error have been encouraged to contact Code Enforcement staff and to update the City's licensing records. Questions regarding the licensing process should be directed to 301.891.7255. *(Housing and Community Development)*

9. Lead Abatement in Rental Housing Facilities (City-wide): Approximately 100 rental properties have been referred to the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) for failure to register under the MDE's Lead Poisoning Prevention Program and to obtain their required lead free or modified risk reduction certifications. The balance of the City's licensed rental facilities have been found to have satisfied the MDE requirements. Such registration and certification are required of all rental housing facilities constructed before 1950, as well as rental dwellings built between 1950-1978 where property owners elect to participate in the program. Owner-occupied dwellings are not regulated. Information on the State's Lead Poisoning Prevention Program is routinely provided by the Code Enforcement staff during the Landlord Certification and licensing process and can be accessed online at www.mde.state.md.us/lead. *(Housing and Community Development)*

10. Go Green at Home - Takoma Park Green Building Conference (City-wide): The City's first green building conference, organized by the Housing and Community Development Department' Planning staff, was held this past Sunday, February 18, 2007. Approximately 250 people attended. The day long event featured keynote speaker John Spears of Sustainable Design Group, Inc. and over 20 workshops covering a range of subjects. Conference attendees were also provided an opportunity to visit with 19 exhibitors and learn more about the green resources available in our community. Information presented at the workshop will be posted on the City's website in the near future. A survey of participants will be conducted next week. Conference sponsors included the Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission, the Takoma Park Silver Spring Co-op, Honest Tea, the Committee on the Environment, and the Takoma Park Recreation Committee. *(Housing and Community Development)*

11. Legislative Work: City staff was in Annapolis this week to submit testimony on bills supporting regulations on condominium conversion, abolition of the death penalty, and the removal of mercury switches from vehicles. Staff was able to speak on several on the bills, including two bills sponsored by Senator Raskin. Catherine Tunis of the Committee on the Environment put in long hours to testify both days on the mercury switch issue and received tremendous support from Delegate Hucker. Suzanne Ludlow and Linda Walker attended a special event promoting affordable housing legislation on Wednesday and followed up with meetings with the District 20 delegates. Next week, there will be a number of hearings on bills with financial implications for municipalities. Staff will also be following up on a number of housing-related bills, including a proposal to prohibit rent control in Maryland. *(Community & Government Liaison)*

12. What's On TV?: City TV covered the Green Building Conference events held in Council Chambers on Sunday, February 18, 2007. Five programs from this event will air during March. Details will be provided on the City TV page of the website, www.takomaparkmd.gov/cable after the first of the month. *(City TV)*